

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 021099PC/RG	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> FOR FURTHER ACTION </div> <div> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. </div> </div>
International application No. PCT/AU03/01348	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 October 2003 </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> (Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 October 2002 </div> </div>
Applicant VEND-TECH SOLUTIONS HOLDINGS PTY LTD et al	

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract, ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ None of the figures

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention

Box III **TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)**

Vending machine (10) houses two rows of four stacks of bags (13), differing in material or size. On coin actuation, bag (13) on the top of a selected stack is gripped by suction cup (27) and moved so that it falls into compartment (14), from where it is externally accessible. Suction cup (27) is movable, by a pneumatic ram, to-and -fro along horizontal arm (24) to grip, say, bag (13) of a rear stack and bring it forward so that it can be deposited in compartment (14). Arm (24), in turn, is movable up or down vertical arm (36) that, in turn, is movable horizontally along guide track (28) so that different stacks can be accessed.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: G07F 11/16, B65H 5/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Refer to electronic data bases consulted below.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Derwent World Patent Index and esp@ce and USPTO Internet sites: IPC G07F 11/-, B65H 5/00-5/10 and keywords: suction, vacuum, vend, merchandise, dispense, coin, token, money and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	✓ EP 193797 B (ALCATEL SATMAM) 21 March 1990 See whole document.	1-14 5-6
X Y	✓ EP 1178448 A (STAAR SA) 6 February 2002 See whole document.	1-14 5-6
X Y	✓ EP 8119 A (LEHMANN) 20 February 1980 See whole document.	1-14 5-6

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
28 November 2003Date of mailing of the international search report
3 - DEC 2003Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	WO 01/96142 A (CHIRNOMAS) 20 December 2001 See whole document.	1-14 5-6
X Y	✓ FR 2273329 A (VAUDEZ) 26 December 1975 See whole document, This document discloses a "movable plate" as per claims 5-6 (see, in particular the figures and lines 6-28 of page 7) and can be combined with the disclosures of the other documents above in this respect.	1-14 5-6

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
EP	193797	FR	2577912
EP	1178448	BE	1013576
WO	01/96142	CA	2409563
		EP	1289865
END OF ANNEX			